

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, US, PK, APER

SUBJECT: STAFF EMPLOYEES - PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

1. THE KARACHI CHAPTER OF AFSA, IN A LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DATED MAY 31, HAS RAISED QUESTION OF "DISCRIMINATION" IN DUTY-FREE IMPORT AND PURCHASE PRIVILEGES FOR NON-ACCREDITED MISSION PERSONNEL AND REQUESTED THAT EARLY ACTION BE TAKEN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

2. LETTER DESCRIBED FOLLOWING PRACTICES AS CREATING THE GREATEST HARDSHIP FOR NON-PRIVILEGED PERSONNEL IN KARACHI:

"A. NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ARE PERMITTED TO IMPORT POVS FREE OF CUSTOMS DUTY AND SALES TAX ONLY UPON THE SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING THAT:

- (1) THE POV WAS REGISTERED IN THEIR NAME PRIOR TO IMPORT, AND
- (2) THAT IT BE EXPORTED OUT OF PAKISTAN UPON DEPARTURE.

"B. NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO PAY PAKISTAN RS. 10.05 PER GALLON OF GASOLINE AS OPPOSED TO THE DIPLOMATIC PRICE OF RS. 2.56 FOR THE SAME GRADE.

"C. NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO PAY A QUARTERLY ROAD TAX ON THEIR POV.

"D. NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL MUST PAY AN

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INITIAL REGISTRATION FEE ON THEIR POV AS WELL AS

AN ANNUAL FEE OF RS. 25 FOR THEIR DRIVERS LICENSE.

"E. NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ARE NOT PERMITTED DUTY-FREE IMPORT PRIVILEGES AFTER SIX MONTHS AT POST.

"F. UPON RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE, NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL CANNOT BRING INTO PAKISTAN DUTY-FREE AIRFREIGHT SHIPMENTS AS AUTHORIZED ON THEIR TRAVEL ORDERS."

3. LETTER MENTIONS THE FACT THAT THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED WITH EMBASSY BEFORE AND CONCEDES THAT AN AGREEMENT WITH GOP WOULD BE IDEAL SOLUTION, BUT SUGGESTS OTHER SOLUTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE EFFECTED EARLIER AS FOLLOWS:

"A. IMPORT ALL AUTOMOBILES IN THE NAME OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THEREBY ELIMINATE ALL VEHICLE PROBLEMS. DO THE SAME WITH AIRFREIGHT AND OTHER SHIPMENTS AFTER SIX MONTHS.

"B. PUT ALL EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT EFFORT IN PAKISTAN ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST.

"C. INITIATE A POST POLICY WHEREBY ALL GASOLINE, PERSONAL AS WELL AS OFFICIAL, USED BY PRIVILEGED AND NON-PRIVILEGED PERSONNEL IS CHARGED UNDER OFFICIAL AUSPICES."

4. THERE HAS BEEN PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE WITH KARACHI CHAPTER ON STAFF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AND AS NOTED BY KARACHI CHAPTER, AGREEMENT WITH GOP WOULD BE IDEAL SOLUTION BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATE ANY IMPROVEMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE OTHER SOLUTIONS PROPOSED (SEE PARA 3) RAISE POLICY QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE WORLD-WIDE APPLICATION AND WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE GIVING A FORMAL REPLY TO THE KARACHI CHAPTER.
BYROADE

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